

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, one further, final question.

Could the gentleman give us any understandings as to which appropriations bills he expects to come before us next week with motions to go to conference with the potential of instruction for conferees and all that goes with it?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate again the inquiry, and I am, unfortunately, unable to give him that. But if the gentleman would check with the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, perhaps he could get a better read directly from him about what his plans are with respect to asking for time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1998

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday next for morning hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES C. DIGGS

(Mr. STOKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to advise the House of the recent passing of our former colleague and friend, former Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr. Former Congressman Diggs passed on August 28, 1998.

Charlie Diggs was elected to the United States Congress from Michigan's 13th Congressional District in 1954. He was Michigan's first black Member of Congress.

During his Congressional career, he was one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus and served as the first chairman of that group.

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He is also credited with establishing home rule for the District of Columbia, as well as authoring legislation to create the University of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, at the funeral services for Charlie Diggs, I was honored to

offer remarks on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus. I want to share my remarks and a copy of Charlie's obituary with his friends across the Nation.

Charlie was a giant in the Black political history of America. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Darlene, and members of the Diggs family. He will never be forgotten.

The materials referred to are as follows:

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE LOUIS STOKES, MEMBER OF CONGRESS—A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CHARLES DIGGS

Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Fort Washington,
MD, September 1, 1998

Darlene and members of the Diggs family. I speak here today to pay tribute to a giant in the black political history of America. I speak on behalf of the 39 black Members of Congress who inherit his legacy. The entire Congressional Black Caucus, chaired by Congresswoman Maxine Waters, liken his passing to the falling of a giant oak in the forest. Present today are Ms. Waters, Congressman Clay of Missouri, Albert Wynn of Maryland, former Congresswoman Cardiss Collins, and myself.

Long before many of us came to Congress, Charlie Diggs was a legend to us. Both his father's and his own political career had made the Diggs name a prominent family name among blacks all over America. We, too, had taken pride in 1955 in seeing this young State senator, join William L. Dawson and Reverend Adam Clayton Powell, as Michigan's first black Congressman. He hit the ground running in Congress and quietly established his reputation as a fighter for civil and human rights.

In the same year he was sworn in to Congress, Charlie received national attention for monitoring the trial of two white Mississippians accused of murdering Emmett Till. Following the trial, he proposed that the representation in Congress from Mississippi be reduced. He also called upon President Eisenhower to call a special session of Congress to consider civil rights issues.

Charlie endured fire bombings at homes he was staying in in Selma and Mississippi while taking up the cause of tenants being evicted from a slum. He investigated racial disputes at a Job Corps camp and in the United States Army. In fact, Congressman William Clay, who would not come to Congress until 1969, was one who was affected by this. In his book entitled, "Just Permanent Interests," Clay first speaks of "Diggs' long and glorious career," and then tells that "In late 1954, when I was a member of the Army Chemical Corps, stationed at Fort McClellan, Alabama, I was prompted to call upon him for assistance even before he was sworn into Congress."

Between 1955 and 1968 John Conyers, Robert Nix and Augustus Hawkins had come to Congress. So, in 1969 when Bill Clay, Shirley Chisholm and I came to Congress, for the first time in history there were nine black Congresspersons. By 1971, we had been joined by Charlie Rangel, Ron Dellums, Parren Mitchell, George W. Collins and Ralph Metcalfe. This was the beginning of the Congressional Black Caucus and we elected Charlie Diggs as our first chairman.

Charlie's speech at our first Congressional Black Caucus dinner in 1971 established the creed under which the Congressional Black Caucus exists. He said, "We meet to assert the common bonds that unite men and women of all races, creeds and generations who share a fierce determination to liberate the legions of the oppressed. We come to-

gether to arm and equip ourselves to fight more effectively than ever before for those who are too seldom victors, too often victims."

Under Charlie's leadership, we became a formidable force in the United States Congress. One of our finest hours was the meeting with President Richard Nixon following our boycott of him for neglecting the legitimate needs and rights of black Americans. At this historic meeting, in his quiet, dignified manner, Charlie Diggs told President Nixon. "Our people are no longer asking for equality as a rhetorical promise. They are demanding from the national administration and from elected officials without regard to party affiliation, the only kind of equality that ultimately has any real meaning—equality of results."

President Nixon's failure to adhere to our demands forced Charlie to make a dramatic and brilliant move. He appointed the Diggs "shadow cabinet" which consisted of black professionals who were experts in government, and whom Charlie gave titles similar to that of each member of Nixon's Cabinet. Whenever a Nixon Cabinet member presented an administration policy or position, the Diggs "cabinet" counterpart would respond from the black perspective.

It was during this period of time that Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, while traveling in Africa, verbally attacked America's black leaders and the Congressional Black Caucus. Under Charlie's leadership, the caucus responded on the floor of the House. Charlie said, "Although his statements are very difficult to follow with any degree of logic, it is not hard to understand that times and the people have indeed passed him by—the matter of black leadership is not within his province to decide."

In two areas, Charlie's legislative accomplishments will remain etched in history. Under his chairmanship of the House District of Columbia Committee, home rule was established, giving the District of Columbia the right to elect their own mayor and city council for the first time in more than a century. He also authored the legislation creating the University of the District of Columbia. The other area was his tenure as chairman of the Subcommittee on African Affairs. He was acknowledged and respected by everyone as Capitol Hill's foremost elected official on Africa. He was loved all over Africa.

So, Charlie, we benefitted from your leadership, your friendship, your letters, your phone calls and your visits. You walked tall and quietly carried a big stick. Good night, Dean. We'll miss you.

OBITUARY

Charles C. Diggs, Jr., State Senator, Congressman and Mortician, was born December 2, 1922, and departed this life August 24, 1998. He was the only child of the late Mayme E. Jones Diggs and Charles C. Diggs, Sr. The Diggs Seniors were Morticians, pioneers in business, public service and community activists.

Charles C. Diggs, Jr. began his political career in 1951 when he was elected to the Michigan State Senate. The youngest member of the Senate, he served a total of two terms. During this tenure, he compiled a record that brought the admiration of leaders throughout the state. An advocate and firm supporter of social legislation, he did much to assist Governor G. Mennen Williams promote a constructive program of human relations for the state. He was instrumental in pushing legislation through the Senate that brought about good business and labor relations, compulsory school attendance, and a re-evaluation of restrictions to age limitations on voting.

In 1954, his popularity in his state as a leader led him on to defeat the favored incumbent, George O'Brien. He then became the Democratic candidate for Congress from the Thirteenth District. Arriving in Washington as a federal legislator, he found it relatively easy adjusting to what he described as "the way of life on Capitol Hill." He also found time to utilize his literary skills, serving as radio commentator on a program sponsored by the House of Diggs, Inc., and their insurance company. He was the owner and president of the House of Diggs, which was recognized as the state's largest funeral home.

As a Congressman, he identified himself with the problems of the Southern Blacks. This association resulted in his being described as the "Mississippi Congressman-at-large." In 1955, as a freshman Congressman, he was propelled across the international scene by his attendance at the Emmitt Till murder trial in Mississippi, next to Issaquena County where his father was born and grandfather, Reverend James J. Diggs, founded the Woodland Baptist Church. Charles was a staunch supporter of the Civil Rights Movement and wrote legislation supporting the movement. During his first four years in Washington, he was assigned to the House Veterans Affairs Committee. He also served on the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee promoting Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. In 1959, he became the first Black Member of Congress to serve on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. One of the prime considerations at the time was to authorize establishment of the Peace Corps. Because of his strong support, he later became Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa.

Congressman Diggs attended all the Democratic National Conventions beginning in Chicago in 1957. He traveled throughout the U.S.A. speaking on behalf of the Kennedy/Johnson ticket. In 1969-1970, he was the founding Member and first Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. In 1973, he became the Chairman of the House District Committee and in less than a year, he persuaded Congress to grant District citizens the right to elect their own Mayor and City Council for the first time in over a century. Home Rule, the establishment of the University of the District of Columbia, the Frederick Douglass Home designation as a National Historical Site are all chiefly the results from that Committee and his Chairmanship.

Congressman Diggs is a double life member of the NAACP, and a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, East Coast Chapter and, has received numerous awards and recognitions. His congressional papers were given to Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. In Detroit, he was a member of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church. In 1986, he became a member of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, Maryland, where he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and maintained strong religious ties until his death.

Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr., is survived by his wife of 15 years, Darlene Expose Diggs; six children: Charles C. Diggs, III, Denise Diggs Taylor, Alexis Diggs Robinson, Douglass J. Diggs, Carla Diggs, and Cindy Carter Diggs; 13 grandchildren: Charles IV, Nicole, Diamond, Dorian, Dominic, Itta, Juanita, Marshall, Alexandria, Ryan, Evan, Jonathan, and Jacqueline; and a host of relatives and friends.

VIOLENCE IN CAMBODIA

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the ongoing violence in Cambodia and to express my support for the brave Cambodian citizens opposing the tyranny and oppression of the Hun Sen government.

In the last week's violence in Cambodia, government forces have senselessly killed, maimed and harassed peaceful street demonstrators who are protesting allegations of election fraud. This has to stop. Hun Sen and his government must understand that his violent actions are not without consequence. The violence must stop, fundamental human rights must be restored, allegations of election fraud must be investigated and an equitable power sharing agreement must be found.

I call upon the Clinton Administration to provide leadership in the cause of democracy and human rights. The administration's absence on this issue has been felt.

To the forces of democracy in Cambodia, be assured that the world is watching. You do not stand alone in your quest for justice, for human rights and for freedom.

CONGRESS MUST RENEW FAST-TRACK

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, shortly the House may help bring around a better future for American agriculture when we vote to extend fast-track negotiating authority.

The best way to secure a better economic future for agriculture is to expand our export markets overseas. With just 4 percent of the world's population, U.S. agriculture must export in order to remain a viable industry. Nearly one-half of the wheat produce in this country is exported. Thirty percent of the feed grains and cotton is exported. There are estimates that 47 percent of our soybean crop will be exported. One out of every three acres we plant in this country is dedicated to exports.

That is why Congress must dedicate itself to step boldly into world trade negotiations next year. Congress must work with the administration to get lower foreign tariffs for agriculture goods; stop or limit the use of foreign trading enterprises used to block or underbid our U.S. exports; stopping the use of sanitary and phytosanitary measures to block U.S. exports; and to increase foreign tariff rate quotas.

Mr. Speaker, fast-track is a no-brainer for American agriculture. Pass fast-track.

AMERICAN FAMILIES NEED MEANINGFUL TAX RELIEF

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the strength of this country lies in its families, not in its bureaucracy back here in Washington, D.C., yet the current Federal Tax Code penalizes a husband and wife for jointly filing their tax return. It also penalizes seniors over 65 who earn more than \$15,500 by withholding their Social Security benefits. Also, the self-employed can only deduct 45 percent of their health insurance premiums, instead of 100 percent, which is the same tax deduction for anyone who does not have employer-subsidized health insurance.

Unfortunately, many of our colleagues on this side of the aisle believe that enacting tax cuts would be equivalent to throwing money away.

Mr. Speaker, hard-working families are losing touch with their children because they must work two and three jobs just to pay the bills. Why should American families have to apologize to Washington bureaucrats for keeping some of their hard earned money? Most Americans would agree that buying groceries, paying the house mortgage payment, taking a family vacation or just saving for their family's future, is not throwing money away.

Let us give American families a meaningful tax break. Let us give them the opportunity to use their money on their family.

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF NEEDED FOR SYRACUSE AND CENTRAL NEW YORK

(Mr. WALSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, Monday morning, Labor Day, about 1 a.m., my family and I awoke to a storm of such magnitude and destruction that I have not witnessed in my 50 years in my hometown of Syracuse. When it abated, two were killed, dozens were injured, with millions of millions of dollars of property damage to homes and businesses.

The next morning I toured the city with Governor Pataki, Mayor Bernardi and County Executive Pirro, and was absolutely amazed at the power and the breadth and the destruction of the storm. That morning also I spoke with James Lee Witt, the highly competent director of FEMA, who had been in discussions with our State Director, Mr. Jacobi, and I urged him, as I did President Clinton in a letter the following day, to please hurry as quickly as possible to make the determination necessary to declare Syracuse, central New York and nine other counties a Federal disaster area.

FULFILLING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1